

March 5, 2009

# Montana Healthcare Programs Notice

## Inpatient Hospitals, Outpatient Hospitals, Physicians, Mid-Level Practitioners, Ambulatory Surgical Centers

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### Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS)

Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS) is a device that utilizes a battery-powered pulse generator (similar to a pacemaker) that is surgically implanted under the skin of the left chest with a lead (wire) connected from the generator to the left vagus nerve. Electrical signals are sent to the brain.

Montana Healthcare Programs considers VNS reasonable and necessary for adults and adolescents over 12 years of age with medically refractory partial onset seizures when surgery is not recommended or has failed. We will continue to pay for claims only when one of the following diagnoses appears on the claim:

- Localization-related (focal) (partial) epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with complex partial seizures
- Localization-related (focal) (partial) epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with simple partial seizures

### Contact Information

For claims questions or additional information, contact Provider Relations:

**Provider Relations toll-free in- and out-of-state: 1-800-624-3958**

**Helena: (406) 442-1837**

**E-mail: [MTPRHelpdesk@ACS-inc.com](mailto:MTPRHelpdesk@ACS-inc.com)**

Visit the Provider Information website:

**<http://www.mtmedicaid.org>**